

**West Linn Police
Department**

Detective Division

Memo

Date: Thursday, February 15, 2007

To: Identity Theft Task Force

From: Detective Kirk Tonkin
Wk # 503-655-6214 x4452
Email – ktonkin@ci.west-linn.or.us

Subject: Public Comments on Task Force Recommendations

I have been a police detective for 5 years and a police officer for 9 years and I have worked a substantial amount of Identity Theft cases and I am currently working several open cases. The biggest issue I have come across recently, (last 2 years) is that of a lack of a central communication hub or clearinghouse for Law Enforcement. The creation of the FTC Victim's clearinghouse greatly increased victim's ability to get information, but the biggest hurdle for local law enforcement is that we don't have a way to effectively communicate and send information to out of state or out of country jurisdictions.

An example of this is case that I am currently working where the victims tried to buy a car through a spoofed eBay website and they were contacted through email. I was able to trace the email to a lady in Florida. I traced the online payment and found that the money was picked up in the Netherlands. The vehicle that was being sold is registered out of California, and the address on the email is in Texas. This case represents about 25% of the type of ID Theft cases that we are working. The problem is that there are three outside states and one international jurisdiction that need to be contacted and information shared, but I don't have a way to do that currently. I have to call or mail those individual departments and try to find someone to take the information.

An online database similar to the Crimedex network (www.amcrin.net) would allow searches and entries so investigators working similar cases or suspects could be linked easily and efficiently.